



North Carolina Preschool Exceptional Children Program (children 3 to Pre-Kindergarten 5 years of age) Notification Flow Chart Legend and Notes

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- As of October 2007, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommended that all children should be screened for **autism** at age 18 months and again at age 2, even if there are no signs of developmental delay. When a positive response is obtained, follow-up action should include:
 - Request for simultaneous evaluation for hearing, autism and consideration for special education services.
 - Potential referral to a developmental and behavioral pediatrician, geneticist or neurologist for assistance with an etiologic workup and/or a search for coexisting conditions if indicated.
- According to North Carolina *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities(Policies)*, the following is in effect for the initial evaluation process for children ages **3 through 21**:
 - Each school system (LEA) must conduct a full and individual initial evaluation in accordance with NC 1503-2.4 through NC 1503-2.7 before the initial provision of special education and related services can be provided (NC 1503-2.2(a)).
 - Either the parent of a child or an LEA may initiate a request for an initial evaluation to determine if the child is a child with a disability. Upon an oral request for an initial evaluation from a parent, the LEA shall provide assistance, as needed, in completing a written referral (NC 1503-2.2(b)); and
 - The initial evaluation process must be conducted; eligibility determined; and for an eligible child, the IEP developed; and placement completed within **90 days** of receipt of a written referral (NC 1503-2.2(c)(1)).
- According to the above noted *Policies*, only the parent or an LEA may initiate an official referral. Therefore, information received by the school system from the physician shall be referred to as “Notification” under CHILD FIND.

ACTION STEPS FOR CHILDREN 3 THROUGH 5 YEARS:

- When Primary Care Practices identify developmental concerns, the Exceptional Children Preschool Program requests that the following information be sent to the school system:
 - Notification form with family contact information to appropriate preschool program staff,
 - Signed release of confidential information for communication from and to pediatrician/school system,
 - All screening information available, such as:
 - Health
 - Developmental/Autism
 - Vision and/or Hearing
 - Behavioral Health Services; and
 - Pending physician initiated evaluations which are in process.
 - The Primary Care Physician should:
 - Facilitate communication among the primary care practice, other entities conducting diagnostic assessments and the school.
 - Share available resources with the parent, school system, and other community partners.
- Follow enclosed Flow Chart, as appropriate.